

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01111 171724Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /033 W
-----029796 180828Z /11

R 171424Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3330
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1111

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SW, EG
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR BRIEFING

1. MFA MIDDLE EEAST AFFAIRS OFFICER INGMAR KARLSSON INFORMED EMBASSY TODAY THAT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING SWEDISH MINISTER OF EDUCATION JAN-ERIK WIKSTROM ON VISIT TO CAIRO MARCH 21-26. WIKSTROM IS SCHEDULED TO CALL ON PRIME MINISTER SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL, AS WELL AS OFFICIALS IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. KARLSSON EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING WITH DCM MATTHEWS AND/OR POLITICAL OFFICERS BRIEFLY FOR DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL SITUATION. BECAUSE OF HOLY WEEK HOLIDAYS, HE ASSUMES SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE PROBABLY ONLY ON MARCH 22-23. KARLSSON WILL CALL EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL.

2. BECAUSE KARLSSON IS VALUED MFA CONTACT AND GENUINELY PRO-US, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CAIRO RECEIVING HIM.

3. COMMENT: CHARGE DISCUSSED CAIRO VISIT WITH WIKSTROM MARCH 15. HE IS FROM LIBERAL PARTY, WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN MORE PRO-ISRAELI THAN OTHER SWEDISH PARTIES. WIKSTROM SAID HIS VISIT TO CAIRO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED SOME TIME AGO TO RETURN VISIT OF EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE, AND HIS COLLEAGUE HAD RECENTLY VISITED TEL AVIV TO PROVIDE SOME BALANCE WITHIN
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GOS. STILL HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT VISIT AT THIS TIME, LARGELY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT PUBLICITY USE EGYPTIANS MIGHT MAKE OF HIS VISIT, DESPITE HIS INTENTION TO KEEP IT "CULTURAL" AND OUTSIDE POLITICS. SINCE GOS AND OPPOSITION BOTH CRITICIZED ISRAELI INCURSION INTO LEBANON (GOS MUCH LESS VIGOROUSLY THAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN PALME, CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR OPPOSITION), WIKSTROM MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY KEEPING HIMSELF

OUT OF POLITICS.

PERRY

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NNN

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